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Office of Transition Initiatives

KENYA



OTI MISSION STATEMENT

To support U.S. foreign policy objectives by helping local partners advance peace and democracy in priority countries in crisis. Seizing critical windows of opportunity, OTI works on the ground to provide fast, flexible, short-term assistance targeted at key political transition and stabilization needs.

FAST FACTS

Start Date: January 2011
Budget: \$7.97 million in TI funds;
\$1.65 million in ESF funds;
\$300,000 in 1207 funds (FY11);
\$9.9 million (to date)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) program, implemented through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), was initiated in June 2008 following the post-election violence that shook the country. The goal of the program is to support stability and unity by contributing to a politically modern Kenya, centered on national identity rather than ethnicity. To achieve this objective, KTI's engagement supports both national and local-level stabilization and transition efforts targeted at reducing political and social volatility and vulnerability to violence. In doing so, the program assists Kenyan state and non-state actors to improve their capacities to support the following broad objectives:

- Enable public institutions to undertake fundamental reforms and to manage instability and uncertainty;
- Mobilize the public, especially the youth and key change agents, to demand accountability and reform; and
- Build moderation, foster identity, and improve self-confidence for at risk youth in Eastleigh to enable them to reject extremism.

During this reporting period the program expanded its reach to cover the coastal region, which has proven to be a potential hotspot as political tension grows in the region.

KTI was implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), under a task order that closed in May 2011. Chemonics has implemented KTI since January 2011, and will continue through May 2013. This report covers the period January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012.

PROGRAM AREAS

Land Reform. Land is one of the most common and contentious issues in Kenya, with land conflict at the heart of ethnic tension. Key legislation on land reform is scheduled to be submitted to Parliament in May, which has the potential to set the stage for far-reaching land reforms; however, the pace of reform has not moved as quickly as desired. KTI activities have actively promoted dialogue surrounding this issue, with project grantees mobilizing public support and generating grassroots activism to create pressure on the government to move stalled land reforms forward. In Siaya County, the home constituency of Kenya's Minister of Lands, a KTI grantee organized public forums for community members to share their stories and air grievances related to land injustices. The forums generated significant interest at the community level and received wide local and national media coverage.

Another KTI grantee in Taita Taveta engaged professionals, landless citizens, and other relevant stakeholders in dialogue about land ownership issues near the coastal region, creating a forum for diverse parties to share their experiences and views.

Progressive Leadership: Poor leadership, political manipulation and negative attitudes towards different ethnic groups have been cited as major triggers of ethnic violence in Kenya. As the country prepares for its general elections and political campaigns move into the limelight, these issues are surging to the forefront of Kenyan dialogue. KTI is supporting various activities aimed at changing a longstanding tradition of voting along tribal lines by helping citizens understand their right to vote for leaders who best represent their interests, regardless of tribal affiliation. During this reporting period, KTI supported a grantee in the Rift Valley to facilitate political dialogues between diverse stakeholders, community elders, opinion leaders, youth, and women to discuss and develop a “Political Code of Conduct” to be used by voters to discourage political aspirants from using hate speech and focusing on key issues during their campaigns instead. The activity, which was launched in March, received wide media coverage and attracted diverse leaders from the region.

COUNTRY SITUATION

General Election Slated for March 4, 2013: The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) announced that national elections will be held on March 4, 2013. This date was based on a High Court decision mandated by the Interim Independent Elections Commission Chairman after President Kibaki and Prime Minister Odinga were unable to agree on a date. During this period, early campaign antics dominated Kenyan news as politicians jockeyed for alliances. Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka was dismissed from the G-7 Alliance of Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta and Eldoret MP William Ruto – both of whom are currently facing charges in the International Criminal Court (ICC) – under allegations that he was stalking Ruto and Kenyatta in order to take their place if the ICC spoils their presidential aspirations. Additionally, Deputy Prime Minister Musalia Muduvadi and a political ally of Prime Minister Odinga began to challenge the Orange Democratic Movement party candidate selection process approved by Odinga.

Ocampo Four Appeals Rejected: The ICC’s pre-trial chamber rejected an appeal by the so-called “Ocampo Four” to dismiss the prosecutor’s cases against them for their involvement in the 2007/08 post-election violence. The group of four includes two Kenyan presidential hopefuls: Eldoret North MP William Ruto and Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta. After rejecting the appeal, the court appointed five judges to preside over the trial process. ICC matters dominated a meeting organized by the Gikuyu, Embu, Meru and Akamba (GEMA) cultural association, which endorsed Uhuru as the community’s preferred presidential candidate. GEMA leaders criticized the ICC’s decision and vowed to collect two million signatures to petition the ICC to defer the cases facing Uhuru and the others accused. Leaders and clerics from the Kalenjin, Maasai, Turkana and Samburu (KAMATUSA) tribal association in the Rift Valley endorsed Ruto as their preferred presidential candidate and leader of the KAMATUSA group. The group vowed to collect five million signatures to defer ICC trials until elections are held or to postpone the polls until the trials are over. Actions of both community groups exemplified how ethnicity is ingrained in Kenyan politics, sparking public debate on the relationship between ethnicity and politics in the media, and whether these groups can claim to represent all members of their respective ethnic groups when endorsing candidates.

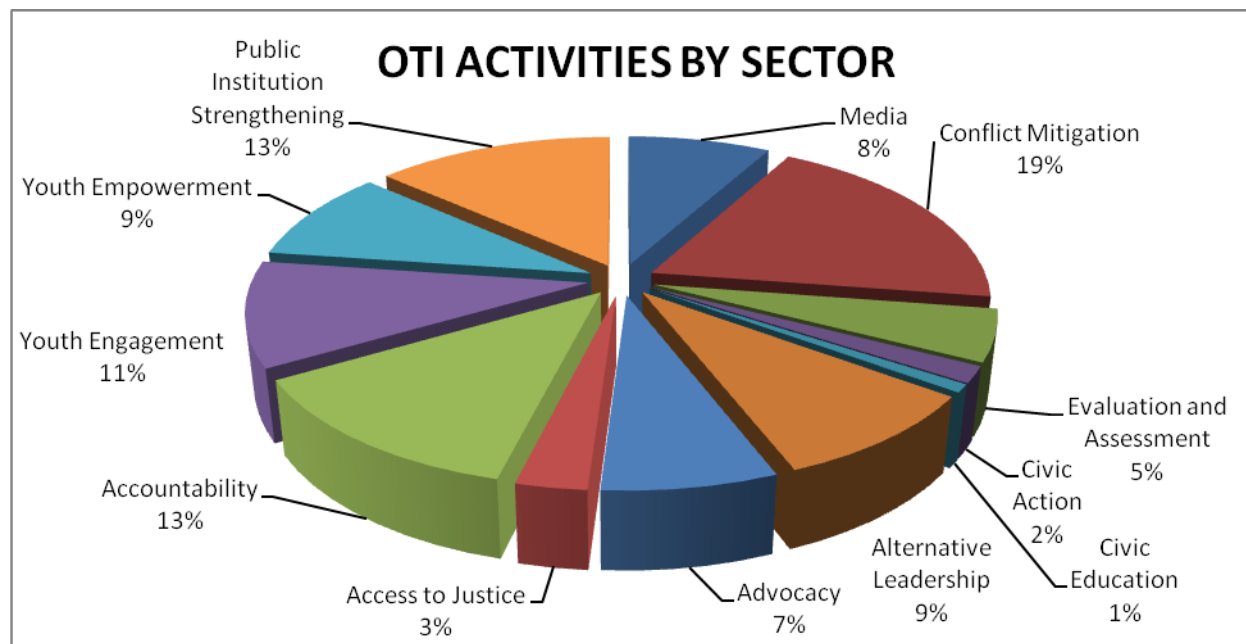
Grenade Attacks: Security declined in major towns and cities following an increase in hit and run grenade attacks. In early March, twin grenade attacks hit Nairobi’s Machakos Country Bus Terminal, killing six and wounding 69. No suspects were identified. Less than three weeks later, a twin grenade attack was reported in Mombasa, leaving at least one person dead. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the Mombasa attack, warning the Kenyan government that its citizens would not be safe as long as Kenyan troops remain in Somalia. Both instances represent a change of tactics by terror groups, as attacks are no longer isolated to Nairobi. It is feared that increased security threats may shake the country’s economy, particularly the country’s tourism industry as the peak travel season approaches.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| May 2012 | - | KTI is preparing to open an office in Mombasa and have activities commence within one month of the coastal funding being approved. |
| May 2012 | - | A rolling assessment for the larger KTI field team to be held in early May. |
| May 2012 | - | A bill on land reform required by the new Kenyan Constitution is scheduled to be submitted to Parliament in May. |

GRANTS SUMMARY

To date, OTI – through its implementing partner Chemonics – has funded a total of 122 activities (including cleared, completed and closed grants, short-term technical assistance and direct distribution of goods and services activities) totaling **\$3,049,970** for all offices. During this reporting period, 33 activities totaling \$1,082,254 were cleared. The breakdown by sector is as follows:



ACTIVITIES

Women as Models of Peace: Women have emerged as leading agents in brokering peace and forging positive relationships in Kenyan communities. With support from OTI, the [REDACTED] established a women-led community information resource center to facilitate the operationalization of local community peace committees along the Borabu-Sotik border, an area that was hard hit by post-election violence in 2007/08. While the relationship between the Kalenjin and Kisii communities along this border was historically characterized by violent conflict, the new community center is a busy hub for reconciling the two groups and serves as an information center on key political and local development issues. As a result of its success, the group is fielding requests to assist in similar efforts elsewhere in the country.

Public Institutional Support: To promote reform within public institutions, KTI has successfully identified reform-minded offices and individuals within the government and provided targeted support to increase their capacity and foster buy-in for positive change. During this quarter, KTI provided support to the Law Society of Kenya to conduct a process audit in four land registries in Nakuru, Nairobi, Thika and Mombasa counties. The findings were presented to key stakeholders in the context of Kenya's ongoing land reform process. During the same period, KTI extended its assistance to the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) by supporting the partitioning of its new offices to create enough space and more efficient layout for the Commission's operations. The CIC chairman expressed strong appreciation of the support extended by USAID.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

KTI has continued to be active and timely in responding to the fluid political situation in Kenya. KTI's programming and planning suits the dynamic country context, which is characterized by a high degree of political and security uncertainty. Showcasing its ability to rapidly respond to emerging events, KTI conducted a rapid response meeting in Nakuru within days of the ICC confirmation of charges against the "Ocampo Four," assembling local partners and stakeholders from affected regions to collect on-the-ground reactions and identify possible strategies to mitigate an escalation of conflict.

In January and March, KTI assembled all key program staff in mini rolling assessments to deliberate and explore potential areas of engagement for the forthcoming elections and aftermath of the ICC ruling. The assessments explored progress on land reforms, devolution (another “hot” issue), and strategies for fostering progressive leadership as elections approach.

OTI played a critical role in supporting the USG policy on counter extremism as well. The plans to open an office in Mombasa abet the objective to mitigate the growing tension posed by the increasing popularity of the secessionist message of the Mombasa Republican Council (MRC) – especially as sporadic terror attacks complicate the security and political dynamics of the coastal region. OTI identified the coast as a key hotspot during developments last year, and worked with other USAID offices to secure funding this quarter. OTI was notified that the additional funds were approved in March, prompting the KTI team to proactively prepare for a rapid mobilization of a Mombasa office and dedicated staff. A short-term consultant and long-term KTI staff were deployed to conduct preliminary research and networking in the region, while technical staff developed several activities that can be initiated within the first month of operations. To ensure a swift administrative startup, staff also traveled to Mombasa to identify office space and pave the way for prompt procurement. An office has been identified, procurement requirements have been planned for, and recruiting for new staff has been initiated.

Lastly, the program’s efficiency clearing grants and meeting targets improved markedly this quarter. The month of March saw more than \$540,000 in cleared grants alone, a record for the Chemonics team and noteworthy given the additional efforts required to facilitate a rapid start-up in Mombasa. KTI also adopted a new method of money transfer to ease the process of settling payments with vendors and grantees. A number of new positions including grants assistants were recruited for all existing program offices, which will also allow for greater agility in grants development, implementation, and monitoring in the months to come.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chemonics Points of Contact

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Office of Transition Initiatives

KENYA/EASTLEIGH

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Implemented through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), the Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) expanded its key objectives to include a counter extremism component in Nairobi-Eastleigh. Eastleigh has a high population of Somali immigrants with youth forming 60% of the local populace. Disenfranchisement of youth in the face of systemic marginalization, limited access to higher education, inadequate employment, crime, and profiteering weakens their resilience and increases their susceptibility to extremist ideologies and values. Coupled with the highly radicalized environment, youth in Eastleigh remain exposed to extremist ideologies by groups such as Al Shabaab.

To counter this threat, the KTI-Eastleigh project (KTI-E) seeks to build moderation, foster identity and self-confidence for at-risk youth to enable them to reject the ideologies of extremist groups. To achieve this objective, KTI-E works with locally-based organizations and the Eastleigh community to respond to risk factors through three basic focus areas:

- Build capacity for moderation and non-violence;
- Empower local youth;
- Support livelihoods for youth.

GRANTS SUMMARY

Since the initiation of the KTI-E component in July 2011, KTI has funded 26 activities totaling \$478,370. Nine activities totaling \$228,694 were cleared during this reporting period.

Ongoing Activities

[REDACTED]: Setting an ideal teaching and learning environment is not about an individual, it takes community effort to improve [REDACTED] a local NGO in Eastleigh supported by KTI, seeks to build the capacity of community leaders, school management committees (SMCs), teachers, and parents to positively influence youth in Eastleigh by rejecting negative influences and becoming responsible citizens. During this quarter, the program successfully graduated a team of 40 participants on how to positively shape the character and behavior of learners in school settings. Parents and community leaders who attended the initial phase of the training program expressed that “parents and community members have failed their role in shaping the character and behavior of learners; however teachers alone cannot bear the responsibility. It is time parents to take responsibility”.

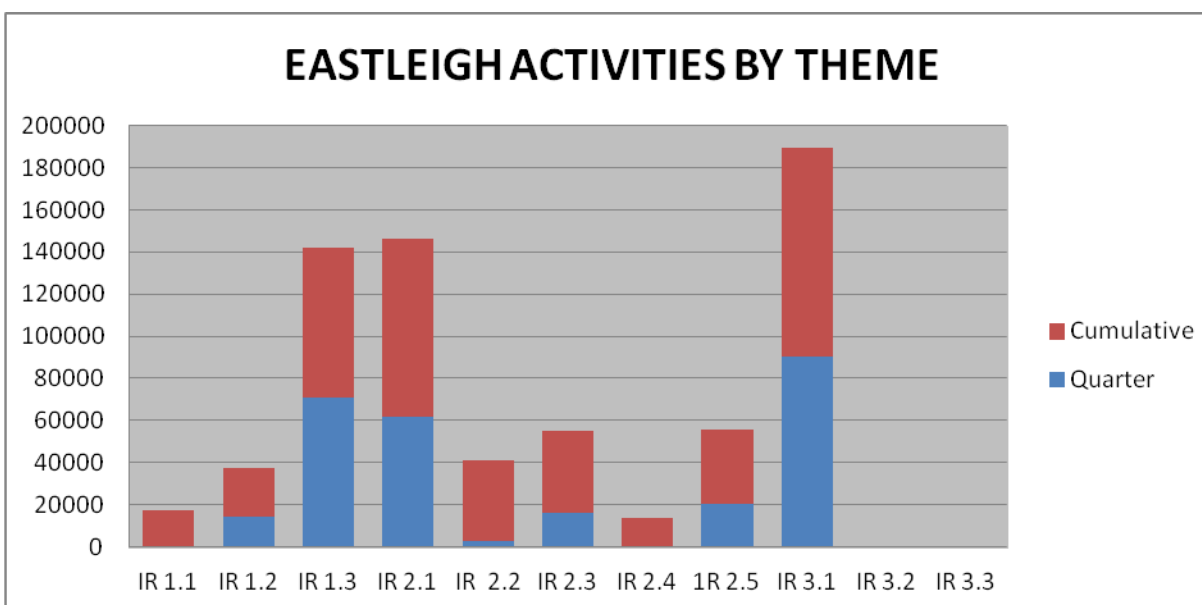
Youth Empowerment Center: KTI-E supports the establishment of youth spaces to provide platforms for cultural exchange and identity formation. Local leadership is reinforced and nascent youth organizations are challenged to develop a network that can have a voice in representing the needs of the youth in Eastleigh. Currently, KTI-E is working with the Ministry of Youth Affairs towards the establishment of a mobile youth empowerment center which youth in Eastleigh will be able to use to share ideas with one another.

[REDACTED]: Creating communication channels for youth to discuss sensitive topics and provide structures for moderate voices is a significant way of influencing and shaping youth character. The [REDACTED] is a local Eastleigh NGO that engages in youth debates and creates forums for youth to share experiences and discuss issues of extremism in a constructive peaceful environment. The debates run on weekly basis and KTI has extended its assistance to ensure continued facilitation of such debates.

Pending activities

- **CHXEAS029 Connecting Eastleigh Youth to Action (Grantee: [REDACTED])**- The planned activities will give youth a platform to express themselves, educate one other, and listen to ex-militia and gang members who are making positive changes in their lives.
- **CHXEAS030 AFTE POA! (Afterschool Program) (Grantee: [REDACTED])** – This activity aims to move youth away from negative influences posed by extremist movements and provide them with a space where they can engage positively and discuss sensitive issues with mentors who have shared experiences.
- **CHXEAS033 Quarterly Evaluation of the KTI-E Program (Consultant: [REDACTED])** - The firm will prepare a detailed quarterly report on youth perception on self-confidence and identity, clearly identifying what builds self confidence and what informs identity in Eastleigh youth.
- **CHXEAS034 - Leadership Development Training of Trainers (Grantee: [REDACTED])** - The grantee will train 30 young leaders (15 men and 15 women) on finding purpose in life, taking charge of one's life, envisioning a better future, defining personal goals, and developing positive attitudes to enable the young leaders to become change agents in their communities.
- **CHXEAS035- From the Graves to the Grounds (Grantee: Pending Selection)** - This activity aims to create awareness on crime and mobilize youth away from crime and crime-related activities. The activity will rehabilitate a soccer ground to provide a space for youth to constructively engage in sports.
- **CHXEAS038- Peace Festival (Grantee: [REDACTED])** - This activity will support the [REDACTED] group to organize monthly peace festivals by providing them with equipment to use for concerts.

The bar graph below illustrates KTI-E expenditure on grants by Sub-Intermediate Result (I.R.) by quarter and cumulatively.



IR 1.1: Enhanced Advocacy Capacity and Sustained Positive Dialogue with GOK
IR 1.2: Improved Communication Channels for Youth to Discuss Sensitive Topics
IR 1.3: Improve Capacity & Structure of Moderate Voices Including Women and Religious Leaders
IR 2.1: Increased Recreational and Cultural Activities to Foster Identity
IR 2.2: Leadership Development
IR 2.3: Youth Organizations Network
IR 2.4: Counseling and Mentoring
IR 2.5: Youth Empowerment Center
IR 3.1: Improved Vocational and Professional Skills
IR 3.2: Improved Attitude for Meritocratic Work
IR 3.3: Improved Linkages to Finance and Other Support for Entrepreneurship

PROGRAM EVALUATION

- On March 17th, KTI-E held the third Eastleigh Advisory Committee. The meeting convened a group of 17 influential community members who provided feedback and input into KTI-E priorities and activities. The meeting was extremely successful, with participants expressing appreciation for the initiative and support for the work KTI is doing. The next meeting will be held in June 2012.
- A grants assistant has been hired to provide additional support to the implementation of activities in Eastleigh, and a second grants assistant will be hired during the next reporting period.
- Implementation of the SenseMaker tool made progress this quarter. Stories have been collected with the assistance of scribes, and a contract has been signed with a local firm to enter data collected into the Cognitive Edge website.

NEXT STEPS

- An Eastleigh Advisory Committee meeting will be held in June 2012.
- KTI-E's final SenseMaker workshop and next rolling assessment will be held in mid- April.